

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
Energy Committee Minutes
6:30 P.M. Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.

Quorum established Underhill Energy Committee (UEC) members in attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Jerry Adams (JA), Nicole Bourassa (NB), Michael Oman (MO), Steve Webster (SW), and Dwight DeCoster (DD)

Meeting Agenda adjusted to hear first from Helen Burney, Green Mt Power (GMP)

By phone, she gave presentation of GMP Power Wall program. She discussed the benefits and rewards to those who sign up. Many questions from committee members about how system would actually work to benefit of residential installers and GMP.

Committee agreed to all think about possible benefits to Underhill residents and how to promote. Agreed it might be good topic for a public forum.

Public Comments – none

Reviewed/Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2018

So moved by NB; approved unanimously.

Current status of Gravel Pit solar

PB reported that next step is to do comparison of two proposals then present our findings to Select Board (SB); motion by SW to do so passed unanimously.

Town energy plan

MO reported that UEC members attended two meetings with Planning Commission members and town planning officer; he is in process of pulling together a table showing what we need to do to move forward. Deadlines are not a real issue.

Reviewed issue of endorsing VEC Electric Hot Water Heater Program

The objective of this program is to reduce the peak demand for electricity by shifting the time one's electric hot water heater consumes electricity to a non-peak demand period. Because the most polluting and most expensive electric generating plants are turned on during periods of peak demand, this program will help the co-op bring down system costs and use more renewable energy. As VEC points out, one should still have plenty of hot water, however, and one can override the device that controls the water heater if there is a pressing need for extra hot water.

Reviewed answer from Kate Desrochers re there being an override by means of a digital app but no strictly manual override of an installed system in case of problems (see 6-13-18 minutes). Committee discussed implications of endorsing the system but agreed to compose wording for FPF allowing us to make disclaimer with regard to problems with system should there be any. PB agreed to compose this for committee review.

Discussion – of several topics

- DD made motion for UEC to sign up for Button Up program with Efficiency VT; passed unanimously;
- transportation – agreed there may be areas where UEC might contribute to energy savings; MO agreed to review possibilities
- boost residential solar – committee will continue to look for ways to do this
- school roof solar – consensus is that Underhill opportunities are almost non-existent
- energy forums for residents – DD reviewed his ideas for forums among which is presenting approaches to financing residential energy improvements including Efficiency Vermont heat saver loans: committee agreed to re-visit the PACE program and investigate others. DD will contact credit union with idea of giving the committee a presentation
- MO (re)suggested that UEC find a way to make information on energy topics which the UEC has reviewed readily available to residents. Committee agreed to explore using the Underhill Town web site to do this. SW will research.

Committee Operations

Next regularly scheduled meeting – September 12, 2018

Energy Committee Meeting adjourned by motion at 8:05 pm

Submitted by Peter Bennett